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ZINGARA- AS KING CONAN'S ARMY TIGHTENS ITS NET AROUND THE ROYAL CITY OF KORDAVA, HIS ENEMIES PLAN TO ESCAPE BY SEA, BURNING THE CITY AND ZINGARAN FLEET IN THEIR WAKE. BUT FIRST THEY MUST DEAL WITH THE ZINGARAN ROYAL FAMILY AND THEIR OTHER CAPTIVE, CONAN'S JESTER, RUFIO...

THE BLOOD OF THE SERPENT

ENOUGH, XANTAUS! THIS KNAVE HAS A WILL OF TEMPERED STEEL. LET'S KILL HIM.

AYE, LEORA. WE'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME. LET'S BE GONE WHILE WE CAN STILL CATCH THE MORNING TIDE.

KILL HIM!

IT'S A PITY HE WOULDN'T REVEAL THE HIDING PLACE OF HIS OLD MASTERS, THE ROYAL FAMILY OF CORINTHIA.

ZANDAR, PUT HIM TO DEATH.

GIVE ME JUST A LITTLE TIME, MASTERS. HE'LL DIE SOON, BUT I'LL CAUSE HIM A LIFETIME OF AGONY FIRST.

FINISH THEN, IF THAT'S YOUR PLEASURE. BUT WHEN KING CONAN CATCHES UP WITH YOU, I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU IN ARALLU.

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YOU'VE FAILED US AGAIN, CRASSUS. IF OUR SOLDIERS DIDN'T GET SICK AT THE TOUCH OF YOUR POISONOUS FLESH, WE'D HAVE YOU PUT TO DEATH AS WELL.

GUARD YOUR SHREW'S TONGUE, LEORA. YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO TRIFLE WITH ME.

ENOUGH BICKERING! WE MUST PRESENT A UNITED FRONT IF WE HOPE TO GAIN HELP FROM THE ALLIANCE OF CORINTHIA AND KOTH.

I'LL LEAVE THAT TO YOU TWO. WHEN THE CYCLE OF THE FULL MOON BEGINS, THE STARS WILL BE IN LINE AND I'LL END KING CONAN'S REIGN FOR GOOD.

BOLD WORDS, CRASSUS. BUT WE'VE HEARD THEM BEFORE. IF THE CORINTHIAN MAGE CALIASTROS JOINS US, WE MAY HAVE NO FURTHER USE FOR YOU.

THEN BE WARNED, THE PRICE FOR CALIASTROS WILL BE YOUR VERY SOULS!

STOP IT, BOTH OF YOU! WE NEED CRASSUS' MAGIC IF WE ARE TO HAVE A STRONG WIND AT OUR BACKS TO SAIL CLEAR OF KORDAVA. WE HAVE TO ESCAPE BEFORE WE CAN MEET CONAN IN BATTLE AGAIN.

AYE, AND MEET HIM WE SHALL--ON OUR OWN GROUND.

STILL, IT'S A PITY, PRINCE CONN DIDN'T COME TO RESCUE HIS FRIEND, THE JESTER. I WOULD HAVE LIKED *THAT.*

WE STILL HAVE TIME TO PAY OUR RESPECTS TO THE ROYAL FAMILY OF KORDAVA, LEORA.

YOU MEAN OUR *FINAL* RESPECTS, XANTALIS.

DID YOU LIKE THAT, FOOL? SHALL I KILL YOU NOW?

HERE'S A QUICK DEATH...

...AND IT'S COMING FOR YOU NOW, DOG!

PRINCE CONN--NO, WAIT! THEY FORCED ME TO DO IT!

SILENCE!

RUFIO...

...IT'S ME, RUFIO--CONN! CROM AND MITRA, HE'S HALF DEAD!

BEFORE THE WALLS OF KORDAVA...

IT'S ALMOST DAWN, MY LIEGE. THERE'S BEEN NO SIGNAL.

I HAVE EYES, SERVIUS. BUT I PROMISED CONN I'D GIVE HIM UNTIL COCK'S CROW TO RESCUE RUFIO.

OUR ZINGARAN FRIENDS MUST HAVE FAILED TO SEIZE THE MAIN GATE. IT'S TIME TO SEND IN SHOCK TROOPS TO TAKE IT.

UNLESS WE ACT NOW, WE'LL LOSE MORE MEN THAN WE CAN AFFORD.

AYE, BUT WE'LL GIVE CONN AND THE ZINGARANS A LITTLE MORE TIME.

BRING THE BATTERING RAM INTO POSITION.

PALLANTIDES, YOU AND KARIM FEZ MOVE YOUR CAVALRY FORWARD. IF THE ZINGARANS OPEN THE MAIN GATE, SEIZE IT. IF WE USE THE BATTERING RAM, YOU'LL BE THE DIVERSION.

EITHER WAY, BY COCK'S CROW, *WE ATTACK.*

CROM'S BLOOD! IT'S ALMOST DAWN! THERE'S BARELY ENOUGH TIME TO OPEN THE MAIN GATE BEFORE THEY TORCH THE CITY.

WHERE ARE THOSE ZINGARANS? WE HAVE TO BE IN POSITION NOW.

GO ON. LIGHT THE TORCH. WE CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER.

AYE, IT'S TIME TO STRIKE, WITH OR WITHOUT THE PRINCE.

MAY MITRA GUIDE US.

GO ON, GIVE THE SIGNAL! I CAN SEE THAT KARIM FEZ CHOSE YOU WELL.

STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED!

WE'LL HAVE THE COUNTERSIGN OR YOUR LIFE!

THE PASSWORD IS "CONAN THE LIBERATOR".

WE COULD HAVE SLAIN YOU FOR AN ENEMY, PRINCE CONN.. STANDING THERE IN THE SHADOWS.

YOU DID WELL TO BE ON YOUR GUARD, SOLDIER. BE GENTLE WITH RUFIO.

ONE FOR ZINGARA!

I'LL PUT MY NEXT ARROW THROUGH AN ENEMY'S HEART!

MITRA-- WHAT'S THIS?

A SIGNAL, YOU FOOL! THE ZINGARANS ARE RISING AGAINST US!

I'LL PUT IT OUT! YOU ALERT THE CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD!

THAT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD, ARGOSSEAN!

YOUR CAPTAIN IS BEING ATTENDED TO RIGHT NOW-- JUST LIKE YOU!

I DON'T LIKE IT! THERE'S NO CHALLENGE FROM THE ARGOSSEAN SENTRIES!

IF ANY OF THEM HAS FALLEN ASLEEP ON HIS POST, QUEEN LEORA WILL NEVER LET XANTAUS HEAR THE END OF IT.

DON'T DISTRESS YOURSELF, VIXEN!

AYE, SOON YOU'LL BE SLEEPING, TOO.

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LIVE TO KILL A WOMAN.

NEITHER DID I, BUT QUEEN LEORA'S AMAZONS ARE NO ORDINARY WOMEN.

HURRY, WE CAN STILL GIVE THE SIGNAL BEFORE FIRST LIGHT.

NOW, CONAN, DELIVER US.

CONAN, WE CAN STILL STRIKE BEFORE THE COCK'S CROW!

AYE, EAMON, THAT WE WILL!

SOUND THE CHARGE!

LET THE ZINGARANS IN KORDAVA HEAR THE BATTLE CRY, MEN!

CONAN THE LIBERATOR!

DEATH TO ARGOS!

SPUR YOUR HORSES AND FOLLOW KARIM FEZ! FREEDOM FOR ZINGARA IS WITHIN OUR REACH!

MITRA'S CURSE ON OPHIR!

WE CANNOT LET THEM BURN DOWN THE CITY!

ON THE DOCKS OF KORDAVA...

KING XANTAUS, CONAN HAS SEIZED THE MAIN GATE.

THEN WE'LL LEAVE THEM ONLY ASHES! PUT THE CITY TO THE TORCH! BURN THE ZINGARAN FLEET TO THE WATERLINE!

YOU HEARD THE KING! BURN THE WATERFRONT STORE-HOUSES! OPEN THE CASKS OF OIL! SPREAD THE FIRE THROUGH THE STREETS. IF THE WIND KEEPS BLOWING, THE ENTIRE CITY WILL BE IN FLAMES SOON!

AYE, MY LORD.

WE'LL MAKE SURE THERE ISN'T A SEAWORTHY SHIP LEFT IN THE HARBOR FOR CONAN.

THAT'S FAR ENOUGH, ARGOSSEAN! LAY DOWN YOUR TORCHES!

KING CONAN NEEDS THOSE ZINGARAN CHIEFS TO LIVE AS THEY ARE SO DROP YOUR WEAPONS OR USE THEM

YOU HEAR CARK ON!

SLAUGHTER THE DOGS!

TO THE DEATH, MEN OF ZINGARA!

ARRGHH

HOLD THEM BACK!

COME TO ME, YOU SONS OF ARCO! I'LL GET A THIRSTY BLADE!

YOU SCUM! YOU OUTNUMBER US FIVE TO ONE!

ACCK!

YOU SHOULD HAVE TRAINED THAT TOUCH AND HAVE YOURSELF

RALLY ON ME! WE'VE GOT TO BUY MORE TIME! REINFORCEMENTS!

DO YOU THINK A [illegible] IN THE HACK WILL TOP ME AQUILONIAN?

I'LL TAKE [illegible] MYSELF

KEEP YOUR HACK TO THE WALL, CONN

RUFIO!

POLICIA [illegible] IS ON THE WAY

RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

AGHHHEEGEE

BY THE BLOOD OF MITRA, YOU BOUGHT US THE TIME WE NEEDED, CONN. YOUR FATHER COULDN'T HAVE DONE BETTER

THAT'S HIGH PRAISE COMING FROM YOU, PALLANTIDES. ON TO ARGOS!

ENJOY YOUR TRIUMPH, CONAN. SOON, I'LL INVOKE THE FORCES OF DARKNESS AGAINST YOU, AND THIS TIME THERE WILL BE NO DELIVERANCE

THE BLOOD OF THE SERPENT FLOWS IN MY VEINS. IT'S TURNING MY FLESH INTO THE SCALES OF A REPTILE. IN TIME, I'LL TRADE MY HUMAN FORM FOR THE POWER IT HAS GIVEN ME.

BUT, EVEN IF IT TURNS ME INTO A COLD BLOODED THING THAT SLITHERS IN DARKNESS, IT WILL BE WORTH IT TO SEAL YOUR DOOM, CONAN

FOR I MUST KILL YOU SOON, BEFORE TAURUS GROWS MORE POWERFUL AND TURNS AGAINST ME.

I WILL DESTROY YOUR SON, TAURUS, BEFORE HE CAN DESTROY ME.

HAIL, CONAN! CONAN THE LIBERATOR!

I INTEND THAT MAN SHALL REMEMBER ME NOT AS A CONQUEROR, BUT AS A LIBERATOR

WE WERE RIGHT TO PROMISE THESE PEOPLE THAT THEIR CITY WOULD NOT BE SACKED AND BY ALL THE GODS I'LL SEE THAT THE PROMISE IS KEPT

COUNT TROCERO HAS ALWAYS SAID YOU SHOULD ANNEX ZINGARA WHEN THE ZINGARANS WOULD WELCOME YOU AS THEIR EMPEROR

AYE, PALLANTIDES. I WAS BORN A ZINGARAN GRANDEE AND I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO WOULD BE GLAD TO BE PART OF THE NEW EMPIRE.

FOR HOW LONG, KARIM FEZ? UNTIL THE ZINGARANS FEEL THAT THEY'VE EXCHANGED ONE SET OF TYRANTS FOR ANOTHER?

NO-- UNTIL A GENERATION HAS PASSED AND THE OLD ZINGARAN BLOOD FEUDS HAVE DIED OUT THEN YOUR SON CAN RETURN ZINGARA TO SOVEREIGNTY AQUILONIA WILL HAVE GAINED AN ALLY

KARIM FEZ, I CAN SEE THAT YOU AND PALLANTIDES TALKED THIS OVER BUT, ZINGARA ALREADY HAS A KING AND I DIDN'T COME HERE TO USURP THE THRONE.

AYE CONAN WE HAVE A KING A WEAK ONE KING FANCHO ALLOWED XANTUS AND LEVRA TO STAY UNDER HIS PROTECTION THEN HE REALIZED THAT HE WAS *THEIR* PRISONER

FATHER, KING SANCHO AWAITS YOU IN THE PALACE.

SEE? XANTAUS AND LEORA HAVE TAKEN THEIR LEAVE.

HOW DID IT HAPPEN, ZINGARA?

JUST BEFORE DAWN, CRASSUS ORDERED A BLOOD SACRIFICE TO GIVE THEM A FAIR WIND FOR THEIR SHIPS

LOOK--THEY BUTCHERED THEM ALL--THE KING, THE QUEEN AND ALL THEIR CHILDREN. NOW THERE IS NO ROYAL SUCCESSION

WITHOUT A SUCCESSOR, ZINGARA WILL BE THROWN INTO A BLOODY CIVIL WAR--UNLESS YOU ANNEX IT AND RESTORE ORDER, CONAN.

AYE KARIM FEZ.

THE NEXT DAY

KING CONAN, WE, THE GRANDEES OF ZINGARA, ACCEPT YOUR DOMINION OVER US. THERE ARE MANY OLD RIVALRIES AMONG US IN TIME, THEY WILL DIE WITH US.

WELL SAID. KARIMEEZ ZINGARA WILL BECOME A PROTECTORATE OF THE NEW EMPIRE. MY HEIRS WILL BE TAUGHT TO GOVERN. SOMEDAY ONE DAY IN THE PLANT MEET NAME YOUR GOVERNOR OF ZINGARA

ARE YOU WISH, YOUR MAJESTY- OR SHOULD WE CALL YOU "EMPEROR"?

CROM.

FATHER, YOU PROMISED THAT PERYCK AND I COULD SET OUR WEDDING DAY ONCE KORDAVA WAS OURS.

AVE, RADBGUND. I'VE NOT FORGOTTEN.

BUT I'LL NEED TO MAKE A COUNCIL OF WAR FIRST

PALLANTIDES, WHEN WILL KUAGA RETURN FROM THE BLACK KINGDOMS WITH NEW MERCENARIES?

AFTER THE NEW MOON, MY LIEGE, IF THE WINDS AND TIDES ARE FAVORABLE. THEIRS IS A LONG VOYAGE

PLEASE, MY HUSBAND, TELL RADEGUND AND DERYCK WHEN THEY MAY BE MARRIED.

THREE DAYS FROM NOW BY THEN, WE WILL HAVE MADE OUR PLANS FOR THE INVASION OF ARGOS.

IN THREE DAYS, THE CYCLE OF THE NEW MOON BEGINS- AND THEN I'LL BE READY.

ON THE HIGH SEAS..

MAKE ALL THE PLANS YOU PLEASE, CONAN. I SWEAR BY SET THAT YOU'LL NOT LIVE TO CARRY THEM OUT

ENJOY YOUR DAUGHTER'S WEDDING, CONAN. YOUR FUNERAL WILL FOLLOW SHORTLY.

THE NEXT NIGHT

YOUR SISTER, RADEGUND, WILL BE MARRIED SOON, TAURUS DOES THAT MEAN NOTHING TO YOU?

I DO NOT EVEN KNOW HER

DON'T PUSH HIM, ZENOBIA

WE'RE YOUR FAMILY, TAURUS

I'M A STRANGER AMONG YOU

PLEASE DON'T. I DISLIKE BEING TOUCHED BESIDES, THE SERPENT'S VENOM IN MY VEINS WOULD MAKE IT VERY UNPLEASANT FOR YOU.

COME AWAY ZENOBIA THE BOY NEEDS T ME TO HIMSELF

BUT BUT, HE'S YOUR SON, CONAN

HE'LL HAVE TO DECIDE THAT FOR HIMSELF

ONE MOMENT KING CONAN THERE IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW

THEN SPEAK AND I'LL LISTEN

CRASSUS WILL MAKE ANOTHER ATTEMPT ON YOUR LIFE WITH THE CYCLE OF THE NEW MOON I HAVE SENSED IT BE ON YOUR GUARD

GOOD NIGHT

A FEW MOMENTS LATER

WHO WHO ARE YOU?

IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO KNOW THE TRUTH, TAURUS

I AM ZELATA THE WITCH, AND I SERVE THE GODS. IT IS TIME YOU KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT YOURSELF. THEN YOU MUST DECIDE WHAT TO DO

THE WORLDS THAT KING CONAN AND QUEEN ZENOBIA HAVE SPENT YEARS TRAVELING ARE REAL, BUT THE TRUTH IS NEVER REAL UNTIL IT LIVES WITHIN YOU

COME WITH ME ON A JOURNEY

.. ACROSS TIME AND SPACE AND INTO ANOTHER DIMENSION.

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE ARE ALL NOW TO THE ASTRAL PLANE

THERE YOU WILL SEE HOW CRASSUS STOLE YOU AT BIRTH FROM YOUR FAMILY, CORRUPTED YOU AND TRIED TO USE YOU AGAINST THEM

BUT EVEN IF I AM CONAN AND ZENOBIA'S SON I CAN NEVER BETRAY THEM I AM POSSESSED BY THE BLOOD OF THE SERPENT.

BUT, LEAD ON ZELATA AND I WILL FOLLOW I CANSENSE THAT IT IS THE WILL OF THE GODS

TWO DAYS LATER

GODS OF ASGARD, BEAR WITNESS! I, HAGAN, BY THE POWER GRANTED ME BY THE THANES OF ASGARD JOIN YOU PRINCESS RADEGUND, TO THE HEIR TO THE THRONE OF ASGARD - KING DERYCK.

THE BONDS ON YOUR WRISTS ARE SYMBOLS OF THE BOND BETWEEN YOU FOR ALL TIME.

CONAN, OUR DAUGHTER WILL BE A BARBARIAN QUEEN.

OUR DAUGHTER IS HALF A BARBARIAN ALREADY, ZENOBIA

MY SISTER - QUEEN OF ASGARD! MITRA I PRAYED IT COULD BE.

RADEGUND, I TAKE YOU TO WIFE DRINK FROM THIS CUP TO SHOW ALL THAT YOU ARE MINE AND OBEDIENT TO THE LAWS OF ASGARD

THEY'RE A FAIR MATCH

AYE! PROUD AND HEADSTRONG YOUR GRAND-CHILDREN WILL BE THE SAME

DERYCK DRINK FROM THIS CUP AND SHOW ALL THAT YOU ARE MINE AND OBEDIENT TO THE LAWS OF ASGARD.

BY YMIR, THE BOND IS SEALED! WE DRINK YOUR HEALTH--A SON FOR THE ROYAL HOUSE OF ASGARD!

A SON FOR THE ROYAL HOUSE OF ASGARD.

AND WE'LL DRINK TO A NEW DYNASTY IN ASGARD!

A NEW DYNASTY IN ASGARD!

TO A NEW DYNASTY... AND TO THEIR HAPPINESS.

TO DERYCK AND RADEGUND!

DERYCK, KING OF ASGARD! I OFFER YOU AND YOUR REALM OUR FRIENDSHIP

MY HAND ON IT

DERYCK, MY FATHER IS OFFERING YOU HIS HAND. .

AYE...

AN HONOR, KING CONAN

GOOD... KING DERYCK

RADEGUND, I'VE NEVER BEEN HAPPIER FOR YOU OR PROUDER OF YOU.

OH, CONN, HEARING YOU SAY THAT MEANS SO MUCH...SO VERY MUCH...

DERYCK, CONAN AND I ARE PROUD TO HAVE YOU AS OUR SON IN-LAW. LET US LOOK AHEAD AND FORGET THE PAST.

AYE, QUEEN ZENOBIA RADEGUND AND I ARE ONLY INTERESTED IN THE FUTURE

DERYCK, I AM PROUD TO CALL YOU MY FRIEND AS WELL AS MY BROTHER-IN-LAW

YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN FRIENDS FOR LONGER THAN YOU REALIZE. ZELATA, THE WITCH, WAS RIGHT. YOU DEPEND ON EACH OTHER.

AYE, AND YOU CAN DEPEND ON ME, CONN

IT MUST BE SO SIMPLE TO FEEL THAT YOU BELONG.

YOU'VE DECIDED THAT YOU DON'T BELONG HERE TAURUS?

ZELATA, I DON'T BELONG DOWN THERE WITH ALL THOSE STRANGERS.

LOOK, EVEN THE JESTER IS MORE A PART OF THEIR FAMILY THAN I AM.

KNOWING YOUR NAME AND IDENTITY IS NOT THE SAME AS KNOWING WHO YOU ARE

YOUR TIME TOGETHER WILL BE BRIEF BEFORE WE SAIL. THE INVASION OF ARGOS CANNOT WAIT

WE'LL USE OUR TIME WELL.

A FEW DAYS LATER AT THE COUNCIL OF WAR...

KUAGA SHALL RETURN SOON, CONAN. TONIGHT IS THE FIRST NIGHT OF THE NEW MOON

AYE, THOSE NEW MERCENARIES FROM THE BLACK KINGDOMS WILL BE FIGHTING MEAN.

WHEN KUAGA AND HIS LEGIONS ARRIVE WE SET SAIL FOR ARGOS. THE BEST APPROACH TO KING XANTALIS' ROYAL CITY OF ARGHANTIA IS BY SEA. THE ZINGARAN FLEET WILL TAKE US THERE.

I'D LIKE TO SEE XANTALIS' FACE WHEN HE SEES OUR SAILS ON THE HORIZON.

FATHER TELL ME, IF YOU HAD KNOWN THAT THINGS WOULD HAVE BECOME SO COMPLICATED WHEN WE INVADED NEMEDIA, WOULD YOU HAVE STILL DONE IT?

A MAN MUST DO WHAT HE FEELS IS RIGHT AT THE TIME.

ZENOBIA, IS TAURUS TROUBLING YOU AGAIN?

IS IT SO OBVIOUS, MY HUSBAND?

HE'S BEEN WITH US FOR WEEKS - WE STILL DON'T KNOW HIM! HE'S A STRANGER TO US!

ON THE HIGH SEAS, CRASHUN SHIP IN ROUN..ER ARGOS

THE BOY STILL TROUBLES THE BEAUTIFUL QUEEN BUT SOON THERE'LL BE NO MORE TROUBLE-- *AFTER I KILL THEM ALL!*

THE MOON IS FULL! THE STARS ARE IN LINE TONIGHT! CENTURIES WILL PASS BEFORE THE STARS ARE AGAIN AS PERFECT

BEFORE THE STARS CAN CHANGE THEIR POSITION IN THE HEAVENS, I WILL DESTROY CONAN AND ALL THOSE OF HIS BLOOD

CONAN YOU SHALL FEEL MY POWER AND SEE MY FALL BEFORE YOU DIE!

I CALL UPON THE FORCES OF DARKNESS TO HELP ME COMMAND THE ELEMENTS! AIR AND WATER, FIRE AND EARTH, SEND CONAN'S SPIRIT TO ARALLU!

LOOK, A STORM MOVES IN FROM THE SEA STRANGE. THE DAY WAS SO BEAUTIFUL

AYE IT IS *STRANGE*, ZENOBIA

THERE ARE MORE STRANGE THINGS IN STORE FOR YOU, CONAN YOU WILL TREMBLE AND I WILL SNUFF OUT YOUR LIFE

AGHHHHHH.

CONAN CONAN IN THE NAME OF MITRA, WHAT IS IT?

PLEASE... PLEASE, CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU

OH CRAP-UH

HA, HA, HA! FEEL HELPLESS, GREAT KING?

MITRA, DEFEND US!

NOT AGAIN...

GREETINGS, YOUR MAJESTIES! IT IS I, CRASSUS!

THIS IMAGE OF MYSELF THAT I'VE PROJECTED ACROSS THE DISTANCE IS FOR YOUR BENEFIT -SO THAT YOU WILL SEE MY FACE BEFORE YOU DIE!

CONAN!

DON'T LOOK, ZENOBIA!

GAZE UPON ME QUEEN AND I'LL BURN A MARK ON YOUR SOUL! HA, HA, HA!

FEEL THE FURY OF DARKNESS, CONAN. FEEL IT ENVELOP YOU!

AYE, I STOLE YOUR SON, TAURUS, AND HAD HIM REARED IN STYGIA FOR ONE PURPOSE -TO SEAL YOUR DOOM!

ARRGGGHHH...

FOR YEARS, I SERVED IN THE TEMPLE OF MITRA IN TARANTIA-- WAITING *WAITING* TO DESTROY YOU FOR THE GLORY OF SET!

TONIGHT, I WIN! I SHALL HAVE YOU ALL!

BACK, CRASSUS!

I AM YOUR MASTER! YOU ARE MY APPRENTICE--MY UNDERLING!

NO, CRASSUS. I KNOW THE STYGIAN SECRETS OF SET, AND MORE I AM YOUR *RIVAL! I AM YOUR DECLINE!*

BEWARE, TAURUS! THESE PEOPLE MEAN NOTHING TO YOU!

TAURUS-- TAURUS!

PLEASE, IF YOU ARE OUR SON DON'T DESERT US NOW

BE GONE, SLAVE REMEMBER, THE BLOOD OF THE SERPENT BINDS US, TAURUS DISOBEDIENCE IS DEATH

MASTER

TALIKUN, I BEG YOU

HE IS AFRAID, GREAT QUEEN

NO!

FEEL THIS *PAIN*, CRASSUS, THROUGH YOUR IMAGE!

LIE, CONAN!

I WAITED UNTIL YOU TURNED AWAY, CRASSUS. I LEARNED MY LESSON.

THE STUDENT MAY TEACH THE MASTER.

AGHHEEEEE...

...ARRRGH... SET TAKE YOU, TRAITOR!

YOU SEE, I KNOW THE SECRET, CRASSUS WHATEVER I DO TO YOUR IMAGE, I DO TO YOUR REAL SELF

YOU WON'T LIVE THAT LONG, BOY!

TAURUS, MY SON, HELP US, BUT DON'T LET HIM DESTROY YOU! YOU BELONG TO US!

CROM AND MITRA, WE *DO* HAVE A *SON!*

AYE... MOTHER... FATHER... I KNOW WHO I AM NOW AND CRASSUS CAN NEVER ROB ME OF IT. TRUST ME, I'M WITH YOU.

STAY BEHIND ME, WHATEVER HAPPENS..

AGHEEE ..

TAURUS!

AH, BUT YOU SHOULD'VE QUIT WHEN I GAVE YOU THE CHANCE!

GET UP, THE DUEL IS JUST BEGINNING.

AYE, CRASSUS, WE'VE BARELY BEGUN. BUT IF I HOLD YOU OFF UNTIL DAWN THE STARS WILL NO LONGER BE IN YOUR FAVOR. MY FATHER WILL BE SAFE THEN.

GET UP. I WANT TO KILL YOU WHILE YOU STAND

WHY DON'T YOU MEET ME ON EQUAL GROUND, CRASSUS, OR ARE YOU AFRAID?

COME -- TO THE NEXT ASTRAL PLANE, WITHOUT ANYTHING TO DISTRACT US

ALL RIGHT, YOU YOUNG FOOL. OUR SPIRITS WILL TRANSCEND THIS DIMENSION!

O SET, FREE MY SPIRIT SO THAT I MAY CRUSH YOUR ENEMIES!

AH THE PORTAL OPENS!

TAURUS, WAIT WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I MUST GO!

THE PORTAL IS OPEN ONE OF US WILL NOT SURVIVE

TAURUS. !

YOU THINK YOU CAN DISTRACT ME. LONG² DAWN IS A LONG WAY OFF.

IF YOU LAST THAT LONG!

AH, PROUD YOUNG APPRENTICE!

WITH ME, SET! WHAT GODS DO YOU CALL ON, BOY?

MITRA.. ASURA. CROM ..GIVE ME STRENGTH...

YOU KNOW BETTER THAN TO CALL ON SET, YOU HAVE BETRAYED HIM! HE CANNOT FORGET YOU THE BLOOD OF THE SERPENT IS IN YOUR VEINS

IT WILL DESTROY YOU!!

DESTROY YOU!

UCH. AHHH MITRA.

ASURA CROM... JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER... UNTIL DAWN...

CRASSUS, THE SUN!! IT SHINES!

YOU'VE *FAILED!* MY FATHER SHALL FIND YOU! AND *END* YOU!

CURSE YOU, TAURUS!

THE STARS HAVE CHANGED! MY TIME IS OVER! KING CONAN LIVES!

BUT I AM NOT FINISHED! I SHALL BECOME ONE WITH SET, AND SLAY CONAN AND HIS KIN

VENGEANCE IS MINE!

TAURUS...

MITRA BE PRAISED, HE'S STILL BREATHING!

.. MOTHER.. FATHER...

CROM'S BLOOD!

DON'T TRY TO SPEAK

I DO NOT HAVE LONG YOU SEE, I KNOW WHO I AM NOW .. PRINCE TAURUS OF AQUILONIA, SON OF KING CONAN AND QUEEN ZENOBIA. .

I CAN TOUCH HIM NOW, CONAN HIS FLESH FEELS LIKE THAT OF ANY OTHER CHILD... NOW.

WHAT DO YOJ MEAN?

NOW THAT HE'S DEAD

CONAN CONAN .. WE'VE LOST HIM FOREVER!

AYE, BUT IN THE END HE WAS OUR SON, ZENOBIA, AND HE KNEW IT.

LATER...

PLEASE, LET ME HOLD HIM JUST A LITTLE LONGER...

ZENOBIA. IT WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING.

DO WE HAVE TO DO IT NOW?

IT'S BEST IF WE DO IT OUT OF SIGHT OF PRYING EYES.

OUR WORLD IS PRIVATE--BUT THE WORLD WILL SEE OUR REVENGE.

DON'T SPEAK TO ME ABOUT REVENGE. HOLD ME... TELL ME WE'LL HAVE ANOTHER CHILD.

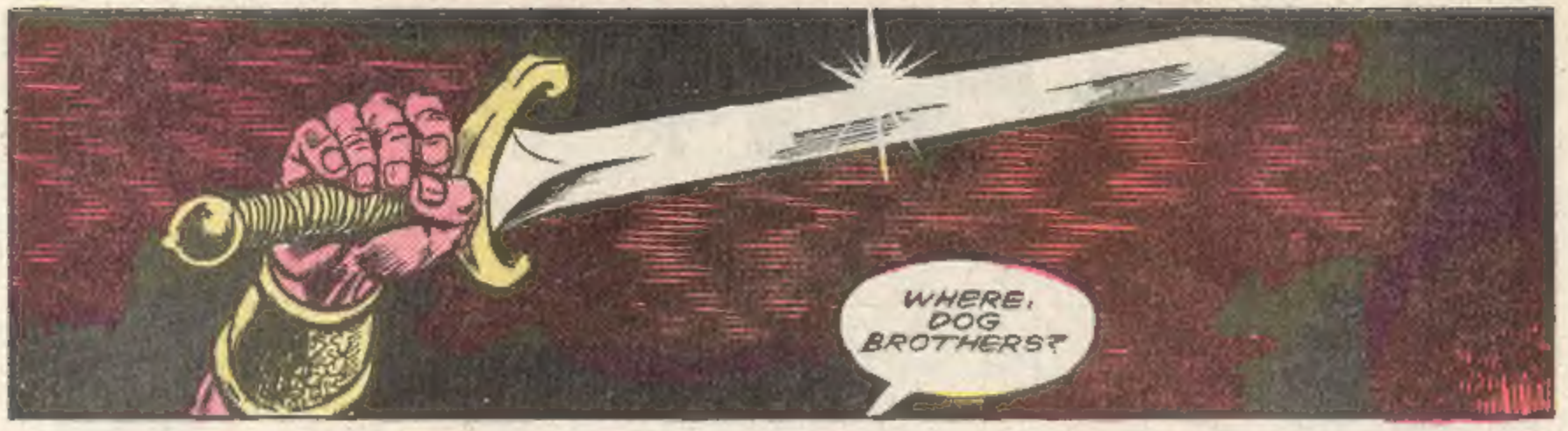
WE WILL.

DAYS LATER...

CONAN, KUAGA AND HIS LEGIONS HAVE BEEN IN PORT FOR TWO DAYS. THE SHIPS ARE READY, THE MEN HUNGRY FOR BATTLE. WHEN DO WE SAIL?

TODAY, PALLANTIDES... WITH THE MORNING TIDE.

MAY THE GODS BE WITH US THEN. THE WORLD HAS NEVER KNOWN AN ARMADA LIKE OURS BEFORE.


WHERE, DOG BROTHERS?

ON TO ARGOS!

VICTORY AND EMPIRE! CONQUEST OR DEATH!

MOTHER, THE GODS HAVE BEEN KIND. I AM WITH CHILD... DERYCK AND I...

AYE, *THE GODS HAVE BEEN GENEROUS*, RADEGUND. I AM CARRYING CONAN'S CHILD.

CRASSUS... XANTAUS... LEORA... I HAVE A SON TO AVENGE.

CONTINUED IN ISSUE #12: THE ARMADA